BIRD CALENDAR - 1914.

Bulletin No. 1.

The cyclone which brought fifteen inches or more of snow to Cleveland, and lasted three days, beginning November 9, 1913, drove from our midst practically every migratory bird. The early winter was mild, the later, severe, and snow covered the ground nearly every day from the middle of February until the seventh of March. To these conditions we must attribute the small number of migrants from the north during the past season, and the tardy arrival of migratory species from the south.

Robins and Bluebirds suddenly appeared in the Cleveland region, in considerable numbers, on March 14-15, about ten days behind their schedule-time; but a single Bluebird was reported from Madison on February 26. The single Robin noticed on Noble Road, February 18, was undoubtedly a migrant from the north, like many cases hitherto noticed.

In regard to Migration, our wild birds fell into three general groups: (1) Permanent Residents, like the Cardinal, (2) Winter Visitors that come to us irregularly from the north, where they breed, as the Snowflake, and (3) Regular Migrants, which breed over a more or less extended range to the north and south of this point, like the Robin. Every member of the last group, whether young or old, makes a yearly detour from its home base. Migration should be regarded as a single interrupted movement, or succession of movements, starting with the close of one breeding season, and ending with the beginning of another.

The initial step is taken from the home territory southward, in autumn, to improve their condition in respect to food; the so-called spring migration, northward, is a homing flight, a completion of the detour, which is effected in order to obtain suitable breeding territory. Looked at in this way Migration loses some of its mystery, for it harmonizes with the seasonal or periodic movements of a host of animals as diverse as the lobster, the mollusk, and the fur seal.

Since the impulse to migrate is based upon heredity, and since such movements to be useful or adaptive must be made in the right direction, it follows that the inexperienced bird must inherit the power to strike the right course, which in the autumn means to go south.

The compass, by which the bird steers, lies in its brain, but through what sense this Right Direction is mediated is not known. This is the Great Unknown Factor in migration at the present time.

All birds reported during the past and present season will be listed in sequence, and bulletins will be issued in April and May.

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1. Whistling Swan: three shot near Bratenahl, on the lake shore, Nov. 13, 1913, and reported by Mr. J. S. Wood, who brought one to the Biological Laboratory, weight of largest, 22 lbs.

2. Kingfisher: one bird reported by Miss Walton of Bratenahl as seen repeatedly during January and February; a single bird was also known to have wintered near her home last year; March 29, in Wade Park, one, Dr. Breitenbecher.

3. Meadow Lark: a flock of five birds wintered about the Shaker Lakes and were repeatedly seen in January by Professor Finfrock. Common and singing at Noble Road, March 16.
4. Crow: reported but rarely during the winter, and not moving about in numbers until the first week in March.
5. Chickadee: Seen or heard all winter.
6. Blue Jay: Seen or heard all winter.
7. Downy Woodpecker: Seen or heard all winter.
8. White-bellied Nuthatch: heard, and occasionally seen.
9. Hairy Woodpecker: Noble Rd. in February, Cleveland, Mr. Julius King
10. Tree Sparrow: Noble Rd., repeatedly in winter, Mrs. Ruedy.
11. Sparrow Hawk: a pair frequently seen on the Campus during the winter, and more frequently heard, favorite perches are pinnacles of the Amasa Stone Chapel tower, and of the Main Building.
12. Red Shouldered Hawk: March 29, soaring over fields, and screaming to start its prey; resident all winter in small numbers.
13. Cardinal: both sexes all winter, a pair frequently being seen together; March 8, male singing, Cleveland, Mr. Woodward.
14. Red Headed Woodpecker: Noble Road; Francis Herkomer Herrick; March 3, Cleveland, Mr. Julius King.
15. Tufted Titmouse: Noble Road, March 15, Mrs. Ruedy.
16. Robin: one, Noble Road, Feb. 18, Mrs. Entenback (See above); Mar. 14, Brookside Park, Dr. Breitenbecher; common at Noble Road and in other parts of this region, March 15; Males singing morning and evening, Mar. 15-17, Mrs. Ruedy and others.
17. Bluebird: Mar. 15, one, Brookside Park, Dr. Breitenbecher; common Noble Road on the same date.
18. Canada Goose: file of 8 going north, morning of Mar. 16, H. W. Sheldon.
19. Yellow-bellied Woodpecker, or Sapsucker: one, Noble Rd. March 17, Mrs. Ruedy.
20. Song Sparrow: Woodward Ct., Cleveland, Mr. C. P. Garman; Mar. 21; Mar 15, E. Cleve., Mr. W. J. Graham; Mar. 16, Noble Rd., Mrs. Ruedy.
21. Killdeer Plover: Mar. 17, Noble Road, Mrs. Ruedy.
22. Flicker: heard, Noble Road, March 21.
23. Red Winged Blackbird: Mar. 22, Noble Rd., Mrs. Ruedy.
24. Bronzed Grackle: Mar. 17, Mr. J. King, Cleveland; Mar. 19, Woodward Ct., Mr. C. P.Garman; March 24, Adelbert College Campus, Dr. Breitenbecher.
25. Marsh Hawk: Mar. 26, Noble Rd., Mrs. Ruedy.
26. Cowbird: Mar. 26, Noble Rd., 1 male, 2 females, Mrs. Ruedy.
27. Field Sparrow: March 29, Noble Road, singing, Mrs. Ruedy.
28. Great Northern Shrike: Mar. 29, one, Noble Rd., Mrs. Ruedy.

Students and all interested in birds are invited to send their observations in writing to any of the instructors at the Biological Laboratory. The names of all Migratory Birds, and of all Winter Residents or Visitors, seen or heard since December 1, 1913, will be welcomed.

F. H. H.